

# **CITIZEN SUMMIT III**

## **REAL CHALLENGES. REAL CHOICES.**

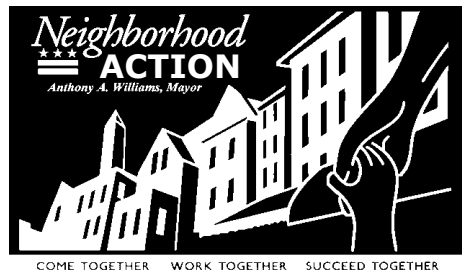
### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DATA ANALYSIS**

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PREPARED BY THE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION  
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***“After many years of not believing that things in this city could get better, we've been down so long, I think that for the first time what I do might make a difference. Thank you for inviting me to the Citizen Summit.”***

**- District Citizen**

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## **CITIZEN SUMMIT III: REAL CHALLENGES. REAL CHOICES.**

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2003**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Executive Office of Neighborhood Action analyzed the data from Citizen Summit III in consultation with goal champion staff and members of the Citizen Summit III theme team. The data collected at the summit (over 800 pages) represents a comprehensive snapshot of the public voice. Reviewing the data, the voice of thousands of District residents, one becomes impressed by the both the depth of insight offered by people and by their willingness to consider alternative perspectives.

Citizen Summit III was convened at the Washington Convention Center on November 15, 2003. Including the Youth Summit in 2000, this is the fourth citywide gathering that Mayor Williams has invited the public to not only review and discuss, but to help the city determine policy and budget priorities. As in years past, the daylong forum utilized technology to poll residents on particular issues and to capture dialogue themes. The District's Citizen Summit process continues to be the largest ongoing town hall meeting series in the United States, and quite possibly the world.

Unlike previous summits that focused specifically on our citywide strategic plan, participants at Citizen Summit III weighed trade-offs and policy options concerning three of our city's most important challenges: *Providing Quality Education*, *Making Neighborhoods Safer*, and *Expanding Opportunities for our Residents*; participants also reviewed our long-term vision for the city in the context the *Comprehensive Plan*.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OVERVIEW**

##### **PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION**

There is great concern about education. Residents see our challenges in this area as a very complex issue, one that will take a coordinated response from all levels and parts of the community and the government. People described schools as representing the "health" of our community, yet no one seems in charge, but the harshest criticism was reserved for parents, who many people felt need to be held more accountable for the actions of their children. Anxiety about the future of DCPS is great across the city.

##### **MAKING NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER**

There is a sense of desperation about crime. Like public education residents understand and want an integral response from District government. People want to see a strategy that reaches across the spectrum of institutions that play a role in public safety including; MPD, courts, schools, juvenile justice system, faith community, community based organizations, business, prison and corrections system and they want to see the District coordinate better with Virginia and Maryland in combating and investigating crime. *People see "hot spot" enforcement as a good tactic but want to understand what our larger strategy is in reducing crime.*

## **EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR RESIDENTS**

Residents are deeply concerned about the quality of health care in the District. There is overwhelming support for “universal” health care. People continue to express concern that “affordable” housing does not realistically deliver a spectrum of housing opportunities particularly for middle income earners like teachers and police officers. There is also a call for providing a “living wage” for entry level workers and increased adult literacy opportunities. Residents also want more child care options and better transportation access for residents who work in the suburbs. *Residents understand that a safety net that included better health care, more affordable housing and a living wage comes at great cost, however they see a greater social, political and health cost later.*

## **VISION FOR AN INCLUSIVE CITY**

The concept of growing more inclusively was widely endorsed by participants; 61 percent said it should be the city’s highest priority and 28 percent said it was an important priority. Participants generally agreed with the challenges and strategies laid out in the Vision, but felt a number of key components should be added. For the *Successful Neighborhoods* challenge, it was suggested that crime and public safety, property and infrastructure maintenance, traffic circulation, and “safety net” issues be included. For *Access to Education and Jobs*, it was suggested that there be more emphasis on educational quality, vocational schools, parenting skills, retail development, and job training. For *Connecting the City*, participants asked for more emphasis on bus improvements, human connections (to complement physical connections), and funding issues. *Residents want to be actively involved in long-range planning for their neighborhoods and want to continue the dialogue about what growing an inclusive city will mean for their communities.*

## **CONCLUSION**

Perhaps, most strikingly, *the single strongest theme that crossed all conversations throughout the day was the call for District government to approach policy initiatives in a more coordinated and multi-agency manner.* Residents were clear in stating that the traditional single-purpose, mechanistic approaches that fragment city services and responses no longer make sense – residents want to see initiatives, programs, and agencies connected to one another and to the communities they serve.

Mayor Williams and Neighborhood Action will again engage residents throughout February in each ward to review our findings from Citizen Summit III, preview our fiscal year 2005 budget recommendations, and explore new initiatives.

## CITIZEN SUMMIT III - REAL CHALLENGES. REAL CHOICES.

### PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Neighborhood Action sought to represent the city's diversity. Participants' demographics are compared below to the city's actual make up according to Census 2000 figures.

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>CS III</b>	<b>CENSUS 2000</b>
Female	68%	53%
Male	32%	47%

<b>AGE</b>		
17 and under	7%	20%
18-24	5%	13%
25-34	10%	18%
35-44	14%	15%
45-54	18%	13%
55-64	16%	9%
65 and better	30%	12%

<b>HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b>		
Less than \$25,000	33%	32%
\$25,000 - 49,999	24%	27%
\$50,000 - 74,999	17%	16%
\$75,000 - 99,000	11%	9%
\$100,000 – 149,999	9%	8%
\$150,000 – 199,999	7%	8%

<b>HAVE A DISABILITY</b>		
Yes	27%	
No	73%	

<b>ETHNICITY</b>		
Hispanic	11%	8%
Non-Hispanic	89%	92%

<b>RACE</b>	<b>CS III</b>	<b>CENSUS 2000</b>
African-American	58%	60%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10%	3%
Caucasian	16%	31%
Native American	8%	2%
Other Race	4%	4%
Prefer Not to Answer	4%	-

<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>		
Identify as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, or transgender		
Yes	9%	
No	91%	

<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>		
Ward 1	15%	13%
Ward 2	10%	12%
Ward 3	7%	13%
Ward 4	14%	13%
Ward 5	16%	13%
Ward 6	11%	12%
Ward 7	12%	12%
Ward 8	10%	12%
Non-Resident	6%	

## **REAL CHALLENGES. REAL CHOICES. POLICY RANKINGS BY CITIZEN VOTING**

Below are the policy options that were presented during the Citizen Summit from the Citizen Summit III Participant Guide and the voting results. The “Option #” refers to the option title that was given in the Participant Guide.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **What is your First choice?**

- 22% Option #6 - Make Schools Safer for Learning
- 21% Option #1 - Improve the Quality of Teaching
- 19% Option #3 - "Wrap Around" Social Services to Students
- 17% Option #2 - Begin the Education Process
- 15% Option #4 - Focused Support for Low-Income Youth
- 7% Option #5 - Accelerate the Renovation of Schools

#### **What is your Second choice?**

- 24% Option #1 - Improve the Quality of Teaching
- 24% Option #3 - "Wrap Around" Social Services to Students
- 19% Option #2 - Begin the Education Process
- 19% Option #4 - Focused Support for Low-Income Youth
- 11% Option #5 - Accelerate the Renovation of Schools
- 3% Option #6 - Make Schools Safer for Learning

### **SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS**

#### **What is your First choice?**

- 25% Option #1 - Reform the Juvenile Justice System
- 25% Option #6 - Strengthen relationships between community and police
- 14% Option #3 - Focus Services on "High-Risk" Populations
- 13% Option #2 - Reduce Neighborhood Blight
- 13% Option #4 - Special Focus on "Hot-Spots"
- 10% Option #5 - Increase Enforcement of Low-Level Crimes

#### **What is your Second choice?**

- 28% Option #3 - Focus Services on "High-Risk" Populations
- 25% Option #2 - Reduce Neighborhood Blight
- 21% Option #4 - Special Focus on "Hot-Spots"
- 17% Option #5 - Increase Enforcement of Low-Level Crimes
- 5% Option #6 - Strengthen relationships between community and police
- 4% Option #1 - Reform the Juvenile Justice System

**CITIZEN SUMMIT III - REAL CHALLENGES. REAL CHOICES.**  
**POLICY RANKINGS BY CITIZEN VOTING**  
**- CONTINUED -**

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**What is your First choice?**

- 33% Option #4 - Create Access by Increasing Minimum Wage to Living Wage
- 25% Option #1 - Expand Adult Literacy
- 22% Option #2 - Increase Hiring of District Residents by Govt.
- 21% Option #3 - Strengthen the Job Apprenticeship System

**What is your Second choice?**

- 33% Option #2 - Increase Hiring of District Residents by Govt.
- 33% Option #3 - Strengthen the Job Apprenticeship System
- 28% Option #1 - Expand Adult Literacy
- 5% Option #4 - Create Access by Increasing Minimum Wage to Living Wage

**HOUSING**

**What is your First choice?**

- 42% Option #4 - Housing Opportunities for Middle Income / Working Class
- 41% Option #2 - Support Development of Affordable Housing
- 11% Option #3 - Housing for Residents with Special Needs
- 6% Option #1 - Expand Housing Production

**HEALTH CARE**

**What is your First choice?**

- 50% Option #1 - Expand Health Care for the Uninsured
- 26% Option #2 - Plan Expanded Services for Aging
- 13% Option #5 - Expand Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention
- 7% Option #4 - Increase Prevention and Treatment for HIV and AIDS
- 5% Option #3 - Reduce Infant Mortality and Low-weight Births

**What is your Second choice?**

- 45% Option #2 - Plan Expanded Services for Aging
- 26% Option #5 - Expand Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention
- 12% Option #4 - Increase Prevention and Treatment for HIV and AIDS
- 9% Option #3 - Reduce Infant Mortality and Low-weight Births
- 8% Option #1 - Expand Health Care for the Uninsured

**REAL CHALLENGES. REAL CHOICES.**  
**BUDGET TRADE-OFFS RANKINGS BY CITIZEN VOTING**

Below are the policy options that were presented during the Citizen Summit Budget Trade-Off exercise at the Citizen Summit. They are presented below by the residents' ranking; the dollar amount is what was presented during the Budget Trade-Off exercise.

1. \$15 M - Expand healthcare for the uninsured
2. \$5 M - Support the development of affordable housing units
3. \$5 M - Strengthen the job apprenticeship system
4. \$0 M - Add more officers citywide with special focus on "hot spots"
5. \$5 M - Expand adult literacy programs
6. \$5 M - Reform the Juvenile Justice System
7. \$10 M - Begin the education process early in childhood
8. \$5 M - Provide focused support for low-income youth between ages of 13-24
9. \$5 M - Improve the quality of teaching
10. \$5 M - Provide wrap-around social services to students
11. \$0 M - Accelerate school building renovation by considering unused facilities
12. \$15 M - Plan for expanded services for the aging population
13. \$5 M - Reduce neighborhood blight
14. \$1 M - Increase hiring of District residents by government contractors
15. \$5 M - Provide tax relief
16. \$2 M - Develop housing for residents with special needs
17. \$5 M - Focus enforcement and services on high-risk populations and ex-offenders
18. \$1 M - Expand housing production to support growth of the DC population
19. \$10 M - Expand substance abuse treatment and prevention
20. \$5 M - Increase prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS
21. \$5 M - Increase enforcement of low-level crimes
22. \$5 M - Reduce cases of infant mortality and cases of low-birth weight babies



**REAL CHALLENGES. REAL CHOICES.  
LONG-RANGE VISION RANKINGS BY CITIZEN VOTING**

**How important do you believe it is that we as a city and each of us as individuals commit to creating a truly inclusive city?**

- 61% It should be our highest priority
- 28% It is pretty important as a focus
- 4% It should not be central to our vision
- 2% It should not be focused on this at all
- 4% No opinion

**Does the vision face up to the city's toughest challenges long-term: income, education, employment and physical divides?**

- 31% The vision is right on target
- 40% The vision includes most of what is necessary
- 24% There is still a lot missing from the vision
- 6% Go back to the drawing board

**How satisfied are you that your voice was heard at your table today?**

- 70% Very satisfied
- 18% Quite satisfied
- 9% Somewhat satisfied
- 3% I didn't get a chance to say anything

**Have your opinions changed since you walked in this room?**

- 16% Yes, greatly
- 26% Yes, somewhat
- 23% Yes, a little
- 35% No, not really

**How satisfied are you with the level of input you have provided to the Mayor?**

- 40% Very Satisfied
- 28% Quite Satisfied
- 23% Somewhat Satisfied
- 9% Not Really Satisfied